

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A plate pair for use in a heat exchanger, said plate pair comprising:

a first plate having a first substantially planar central portion surrounded by a first peripheral edge portion, the peripheral edge portion including a substantially planar peripheral flange section having a first opening formed therein;

a second plate having a second substantially planar central portion spaced-apart from said first central portion and surrounded by a second peripheral edge portion having a second opening formed therein, one of the first and second openings being larger than the other of the first and second openings; and

brazing material securing the peripheral flange section to the second peripheral edge portion of the second plate with the first and second openings in substantial alignment with each other,

wherein the substantially aligned first and second openings form a mounting opening for receiving a fastener for mounting said heat exchanger.

2. (Original) The plate pair of claim 1 wherein a perimeter of the first opening does not overlap with a perimeter of the second opening.

3. (Original) The plate pair of claim 1 wherein at least the first opening is circular.

4. (Previously presented) The plate pair of claim 3 wherein the mounting opening formed by the aligned first and second openings has an effective diameter equal to that of the first opening.

5. (Original) The plate pair of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second openings is oval.

6. (Original) The plate pair of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second openings is elliptical.

7. (Original) The plate pair of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second openings is triangular.

8. (Original) The plate pair of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second openings is rectangular.

9. (Previously presented) The plate pair of claim 1 wherein the first opening and the second opening each have a different shape.

10. (Original) The plate pair of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second openings is multi-sided.

11. (Original) The plate pair of claim 1 wherein the first opening and the second opening are not concentric.

12. (Original) The plate pair of claim 1 including a fastener having a shaft passing through the openings.

13. (Previously presented) The plate pair of claim 1 wherein the plate pair forms a heat exchanger and a fluid flow chamber having inlet and outlet openings is defined between the spaced apart central portions.

14. (Previously presented) The plate pair of claim 13 wherein a plurality of first openings are formed through the first plate flange section and a plurality of the second openings are formed through the second plate edge portion in

alignment with corresponding ones of the first openings, forming a plurality of mounting openings.

15. (Currently amended) A method for forming a plate pair for use in a heat exchanger, said method comprising:

(a) providing a first plate having a substantially planar central portion surrounded by a first peripheral edge portion, the peripheral edge portion including a substantially planar peripheral flange section having a first opening formed therein;

(b) providing a second plate having a second peripheral edge portion having a second opening through said second edge portion, one of the first and second openings being larger than the other of the first and second openings, at least ~~open~~one of the first plate and second plate being covered with a brazing material; and

(c) oven brazing the first plate and the second plate together with the first plate peripheral flange section abutting against the second peripheral edge portion and the first and second openings substantially in alignment with each other; the substantially aligned first and second openings together forming a mounting opening for receiving a fastener for mounting said heat exchanger.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein a perimeter of the first opening does not overlap with a perimeter of the second opening.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the mounting opening has an effective diameter equal to that of the first opening.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the first and second openings are substantially the same shape, the shape being selected from the group consisting of circular, oval, elliptical, triangular and rectangular.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the first opening and second opening are dimensioned such that the minimum distance between a perimeter of the second opening and a perimeter of the first opening is at least equal to the thickness of the second plate.

20. (Original) The method of claim 15 including forming at least one of the first and second plates by stamping, and forming the first opening and the second opening by punching through the first and second plates, respectively.

21. (Previously added) A plate pair for use in a heat exchanger, said plate pair comprising:

- a first plate having a first opening through a first plate portion thereof;

- a second plate having a second opening through a second plate portion thereof, the second opening being larger than the first opening; and

- brazing material securing the first plate portion to the second plate portion with the first and second openings being in substantial alignment with each other and together forming a fastener opening for receiving a fastener for mounting purposes.

22. (Previously added) A plate pair according to claim 21 including a fastener having a shaft passing through said fastener opening.

23. (Previously added) A heat exchanger apparatus comprising a heat exchanging device including:

- a first plate having a first opening;

- a second plate having a second opening, the first and second plates having substantially planar spaced apart central portions that are surrounded by peripheral edge portions, the peripheral edge portion of one of said first and second plates including a substantially planar peripheral flange section that is brazed by brazing material to the peripheral edge portion of the

other of said first and second plates, said first and second openings being formed respectively in said peripheral flange section and the peripheral edge portion brazed thereto and being in substantial alignment with each other, one of said first and second openings being larger than the other of said first and second openings;

a fluid flow chamber having inlet and outlet openings being defined between the spaced apart central portions; and

a fastener having a shaft passing through said first and second openings.